

The International Wheat Yield Partnership (IWYP) – An Effective Model for Integrating Wheat Science to Increase Yield Potential

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“The electric light did not come from the
continuous improvement of candles”

Oren Harari

“If I had asked people what they wanted,
they would have said faster horses”

Henry Ford

The International Wheat Yield Partnership (IWYP)



- Every scientist here knows how complicated and difficult it is not only to make innovative improvements in crop productivity, but also have them incorporated into the products that make it to farmers' fields
- IWYP was founded:
 - To tackle the complexity of integrating the trait and genetic outputs for yield enhancement from cutting-edge discovery science
 - To assemble these innovations in elite germplasm to significantly enhance the genetic yield potential to address the “global grand challenge” of food and nutritional security for the future
- To do so, IWYP created a holistic system to take discoveries from many international research teams, translate and scale them into pre-products for use in breeding higher yielding varieties for both the developed and developing parts of the world

What is IWYP ?

- ❖ IWYP takes the lead responsibility for delivering one of the four core themes of the Wheat Initiative's 'Strategic Research Agenda'
- ❖ IWYP is a unique public-private partnership:
 - Set up to maximize efficiency in bringing together the top international science in a specific target area
 - To coordinate an integrated program and drive its science toward delivery and impact
- ❖ IWYP is a long term Program – it will take many years to translate, develop and scale the number of research outputs in the pipeline and deliver the innovations via breeding to farmers' fields

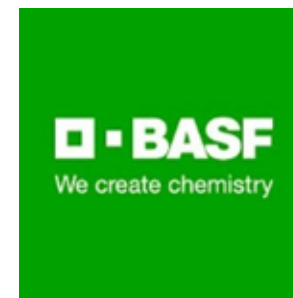
IWYP Research and Funding Partners (14)



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture



IWYP Private Industry Partners (9)



IWYP Stakeholders Drive the Initiative

Funding Organizations and Private Industry Partners **Invest:**

- ✓ Considerable time in strategy development and science oversight
- ✓ ~US\$ 55M in research projects
- ✓ ~US\$ 5M in the downstream translation and development platform
- ✓ ~US\$ 3M in Program Coordination and Management
- ✓ By further developing the outputs in their breeding pipelines

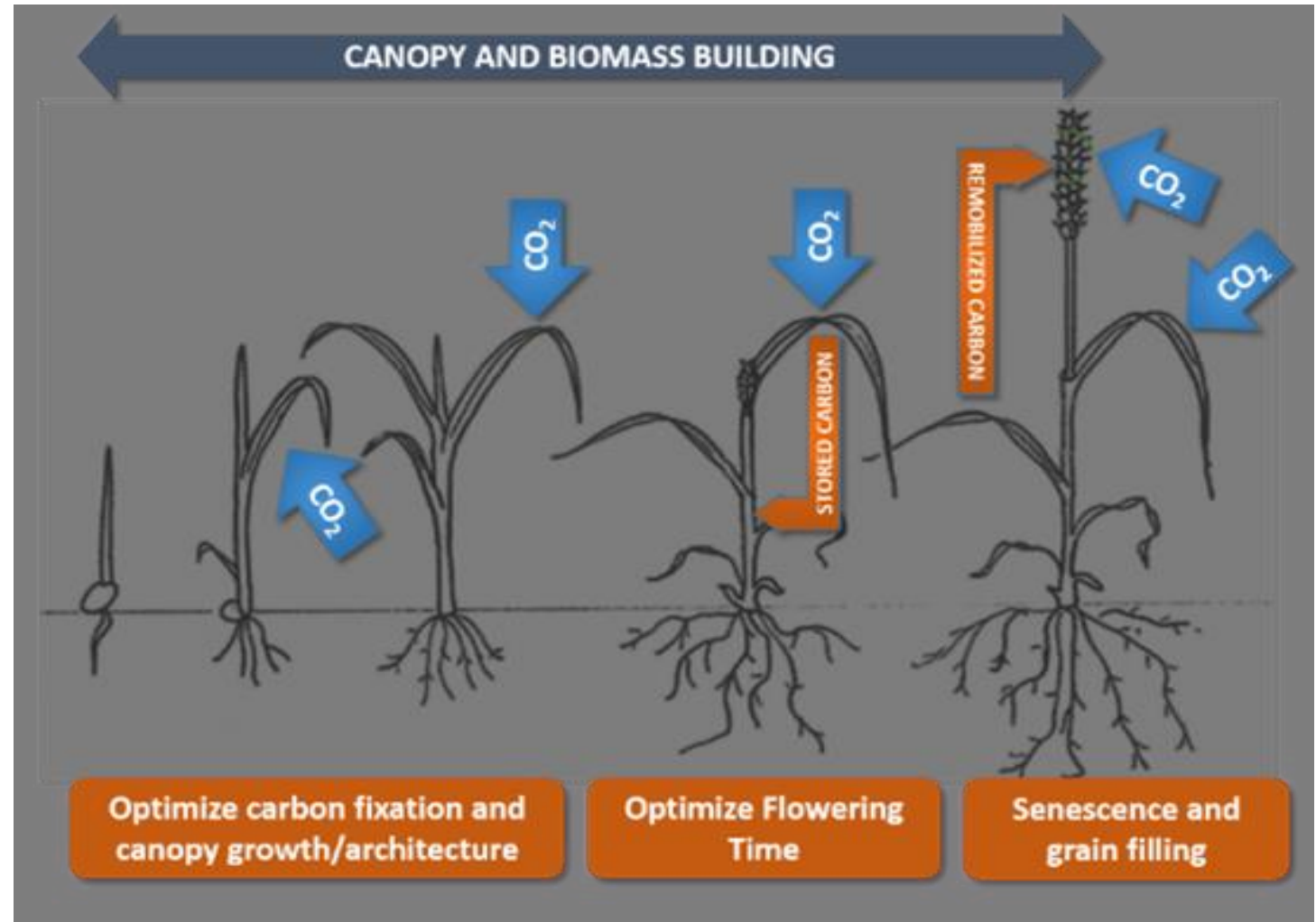
International Teams of Scientists **Innovate:**

- ✓ Discover or create the novel scientific outputs to increase genetic yield potential
- ✓ Actively participate in the overall IWYP Science Program
- ✓ Create added value through integration of their science with others

IWYP Targets Specific Areas of Science to Seek “Breakthroughs” in Wheat Genetic Yield Potential

Primary Focus

- ✓ Enhance photosynthesis to drive yield increases - both source and sink sides of the equation, and connections between
- ✓ Optimize resource uptake, distribution and utilization



How IWYP Operates – Purposely Different Approach

- Organizes IWYP-led competitive Calls and selects international teams and their projects to meet IWYP goals and objectives
- Participates in “Aligned Calls” with Funding Agency Partners
- Brings in relevant research funded outside of IWYP mechanisms to expand the science base
- Coordinates scientific outputs for increasing wheat yield potential and integrates them to generate added value
- Manages an organized translation and development pipeline (IWYP Hub) for scaling selected outputs (traits, markers, tools, germplasm) by validating innovations in the field, combining them in elite germplasm, then transferring them to field trialing systems
- Feeds the improved lines (pre-products) into existing varietal breeding pipelines, both public and private, to create new products for impact

Current IWYP Research Portfolio

IWYP Science Program is made up of 38 “hand-picked” overlapping and / or complementary research projects, conducted by top international scientists working collaboratively to provide the essential building blocks that will be used to create novel pre-products

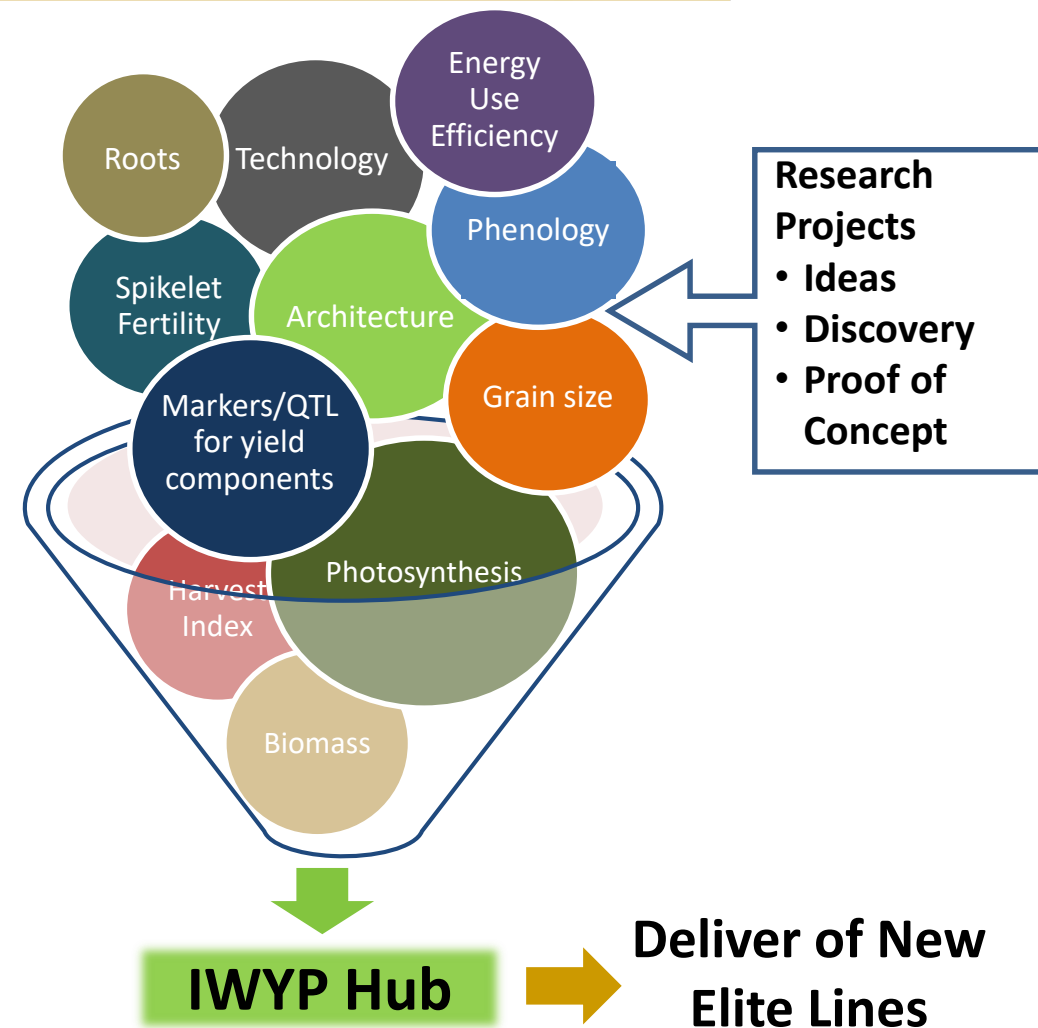
Number of Projects	38
Number of Countries	14
Number of Institutions	58
Number of Researchers	150+



The IWYP Hub Sorts, Assembles and Scales the Trait/Marker/Tool Outputs in Path to Impact

HUB Platform approach for Translation

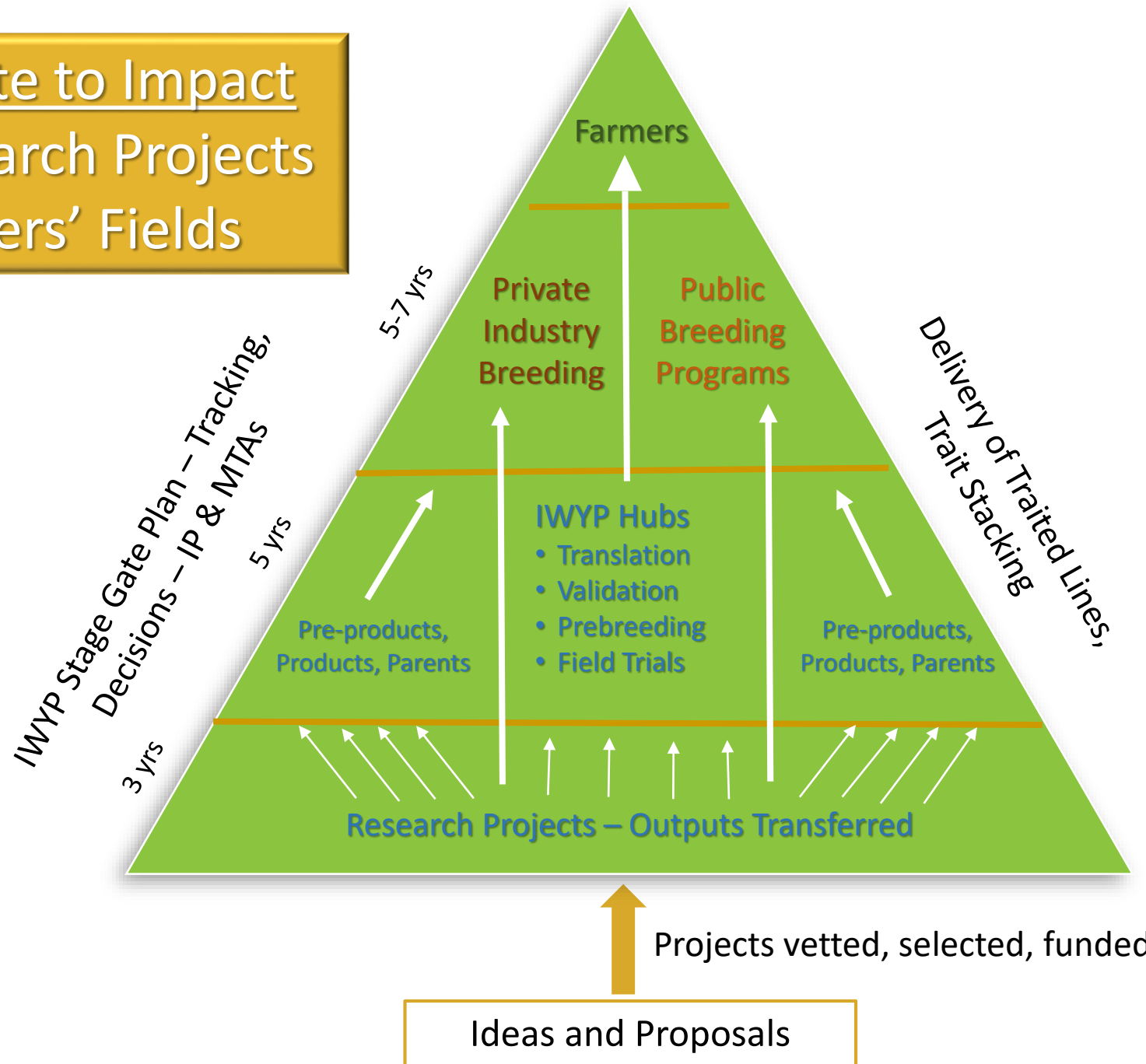
- Brings all discoveries into a single central source to compare and combine to seek synergies and generate added value
 - Enables IWYP to scale the innovations and drive the discoveries/traits toward the market
- ✓ Trait validation
 - ✓ Precision phenotyping
 - ✓ Prebreeding
 - ✓ Field evaluation in relevant environments
 - ✓ Distribution of novel higher yielding germplasm



Expanding the IWYP Downstream Network

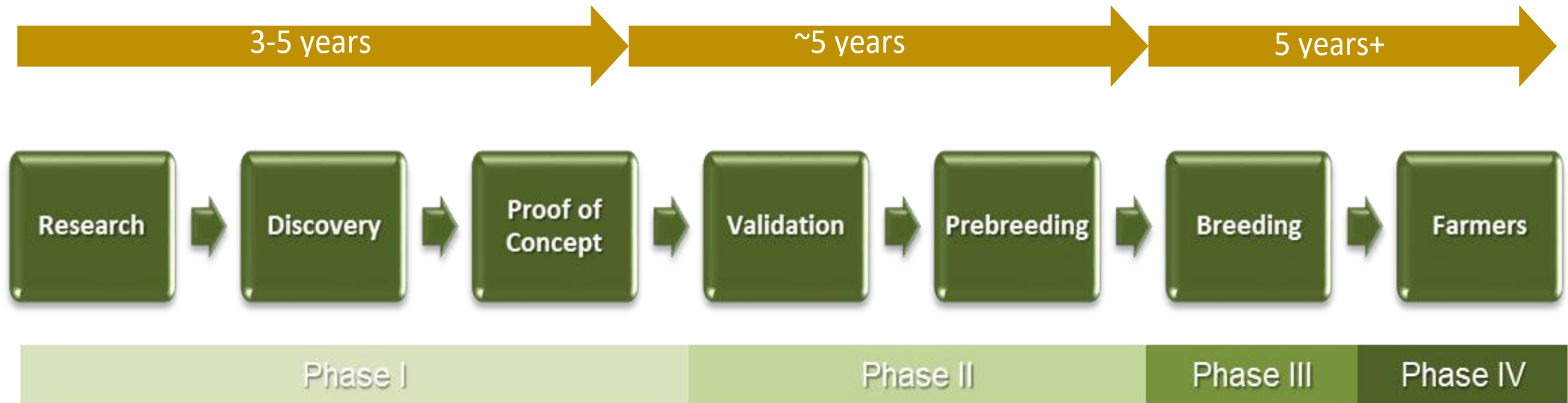
- Will enhance the capability to serve the channels to market for both developed and developing countries
- Main research, translation and development IWYP Hub is with CIMMYT – spring wheats
- Working to install 2 different Winter Wheat Hub centers, one in the US and another in the UK / Europe - expecting significant cross over and sharing

IWYP Route to Impact From Research Projects to Farmers' Fields

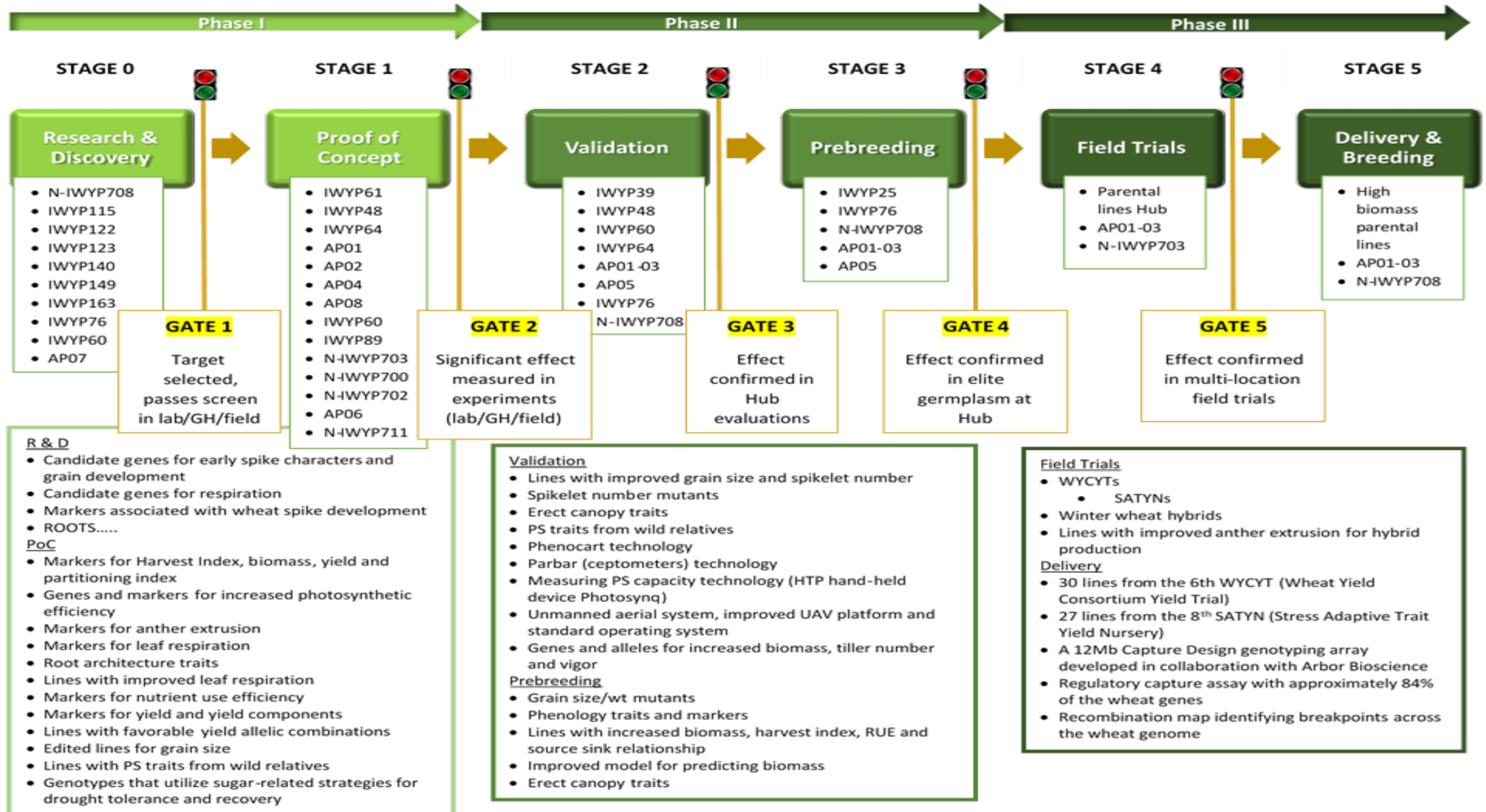


Organizing and Tracking IWYP Steps and Processes

IWYP's Strategic Plan fall into 4 overlapping "phases"



IWYP STAGE GATE PROCESS

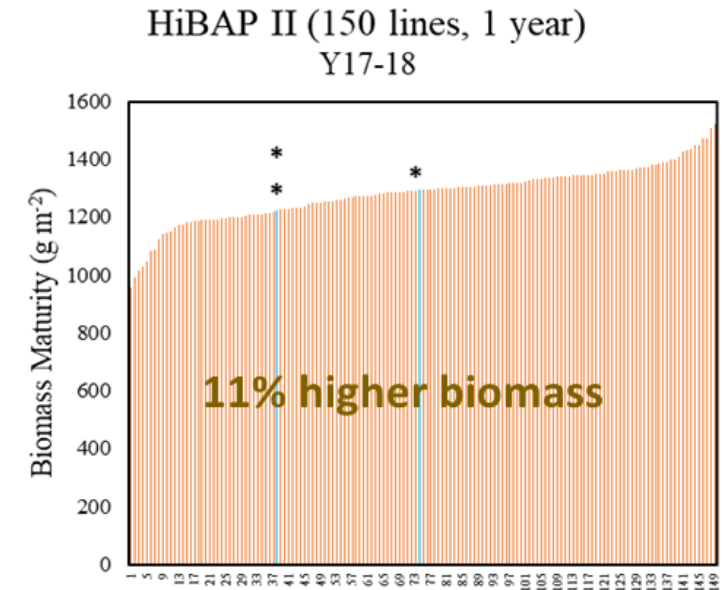
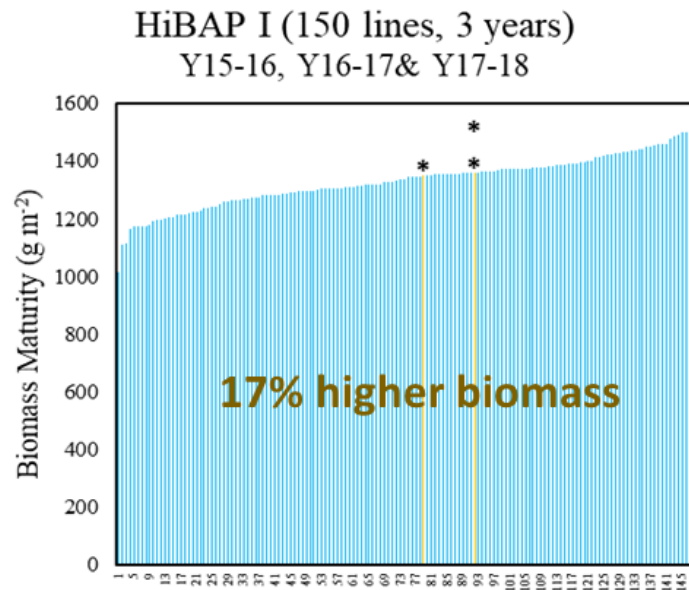
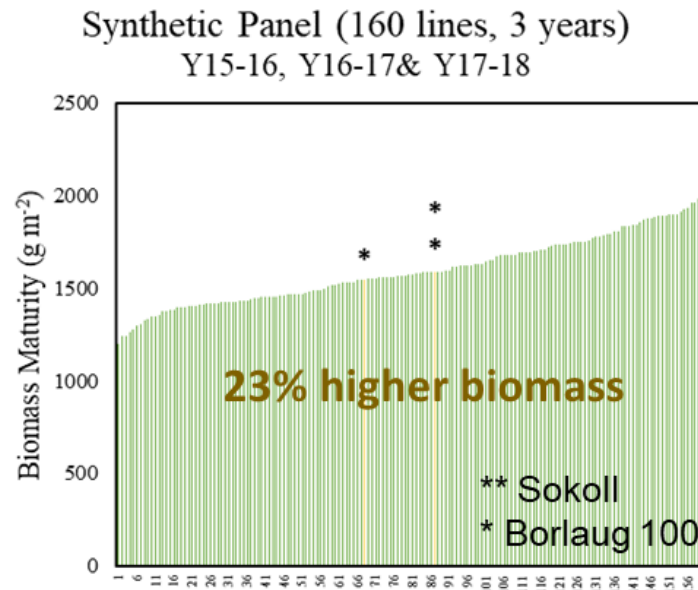


The IWYP Science Program – Examples of Progress in Our Research to Illustrate the Strategy

Hypothesis – More efficient photosynthesis, e.g., through RUE and/or EUE is a major bottleneck for yield enhancement

- IWYP seeks to mine and capitalize on genetic variation that has been under-appreciated by screening diverse germplasm for specific traits in ways that have never been done before
- Research is identifying traits associated with photosynthesis (both source and sink) and respiration, and how they are effected by the environment, e.g., sun/shade transitions
- Further research defines the underpinning genetics of these traits and creates tools for efficient application in breeding
- New technologies make the types of discoveries we are seeking possible, from both the phenotypic and genotypic aspects
- IWYP views the integrated development of research innovations from around the world into usable genetic resources as a distinctive and critical aspect of the Program

Selecting for Increased Biomass (RUE) in Diverse Populations to Increase Source Strength – Found Significant Variability



- 🌾 **Large genetic variation for final biomass** in over 3,500 spring wheat lines evaluated
- 🌾 Best lines expressing up to **23% higher biomass** than the elite checks
- 🌾 Highest biomass lines have **exotic** material in their pedigrees

Higher Expression of BM, TGW and RUE from Exotic Germplasm – Trade-Offs Need to be Considered



RUE explained 38% of yield variation

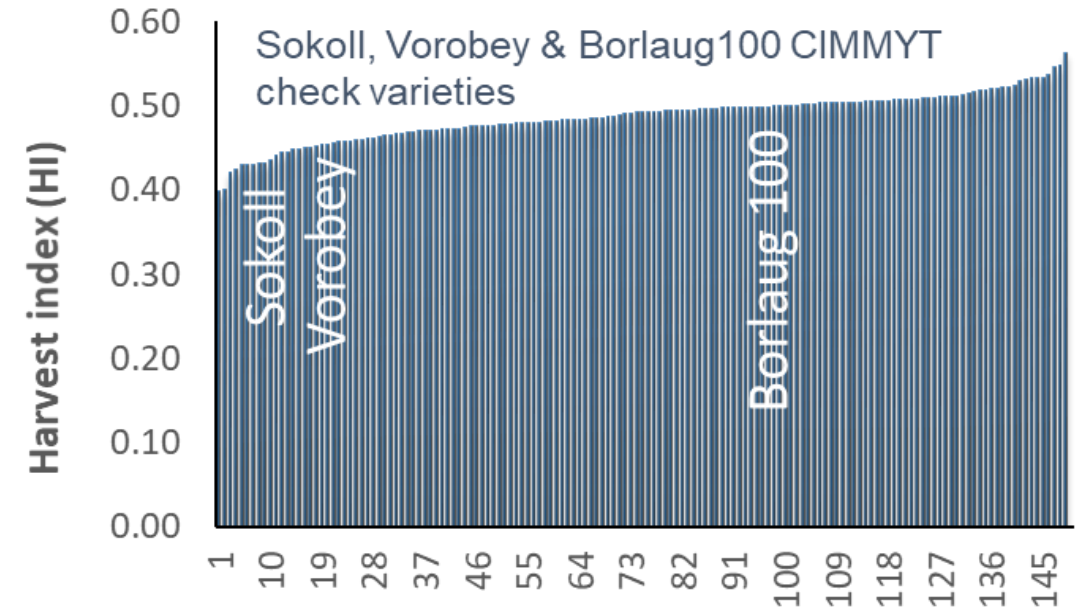
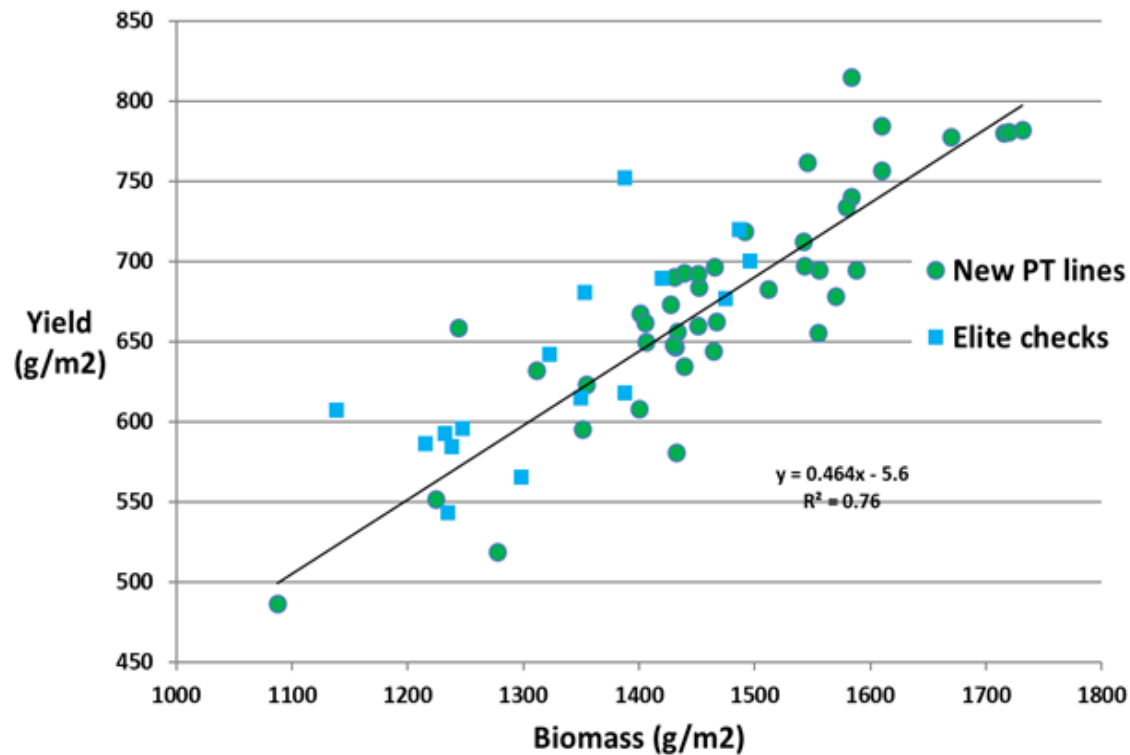
Trait	Variable chosen	Adjusted R ²	P-value	Sig. F change
Yield	RUE_GF	0.382	<0.001	<0.001
	RUE_GF, HI	0.657	<0.001	<0.001
	RUE_GF, HI, BM_PM	0.861	<0.001	<0.001
	HI, BM_PM	0.861	<0.001	0.487
	HI, BM_PM, GM2	0.866	<0.001	0.012

Type	YLD	DTA	TGW	HI	Height	BM_PM	RUE_GF
Elite	597 ^A	76 ^B	42.6 ^C	0.473 ^A	99 ^D	1346 ^B	1.99 ^B
Landrace derivatives	592 ^A	79 ^A	45.7 ^B	0.450 ^C	103 ^A	1394 ^A	2.02 ^{AB}
Synthetic derivatives	594 ^A	76 ^B	45.6 ^B	0.463 ^B	101 ^C	1358 ^{AB}	2.03 ^{AB}
Synthetic+Landrace derivative	593 ^A	76 ^B	48.2 ^A	0.459 ^B	102 ^B	1389 ^A	2.17 ^A

Link Biomass with HI and Select High Yielding Lines

Validates IWYP's Primary Trait Targets

The Relationship of Grain Yield and biomass in New Physiological Trait lines vs. Check (Obregon, Mexico)



- Large genetic variation in HI in high biomass panel (HIBAP II); trade off with biomass
- HI maintained in high biomass lines
- Some lines with up to **13% higher HI** than the CIMMYT variety Borlaug 100

Courtesy of G. Molero, C. Rivera, M. Reynolds, CIMMYT

More Aspects of Source: Altering Canopy Architecture Can Increase Total Photosynthesis and Wheat Yield



Advantages of erect canopies:

- Better light penetration
- Higher grain yield and biomass
- More spikes and more grains
- Less lodging
- Better heat tolerance



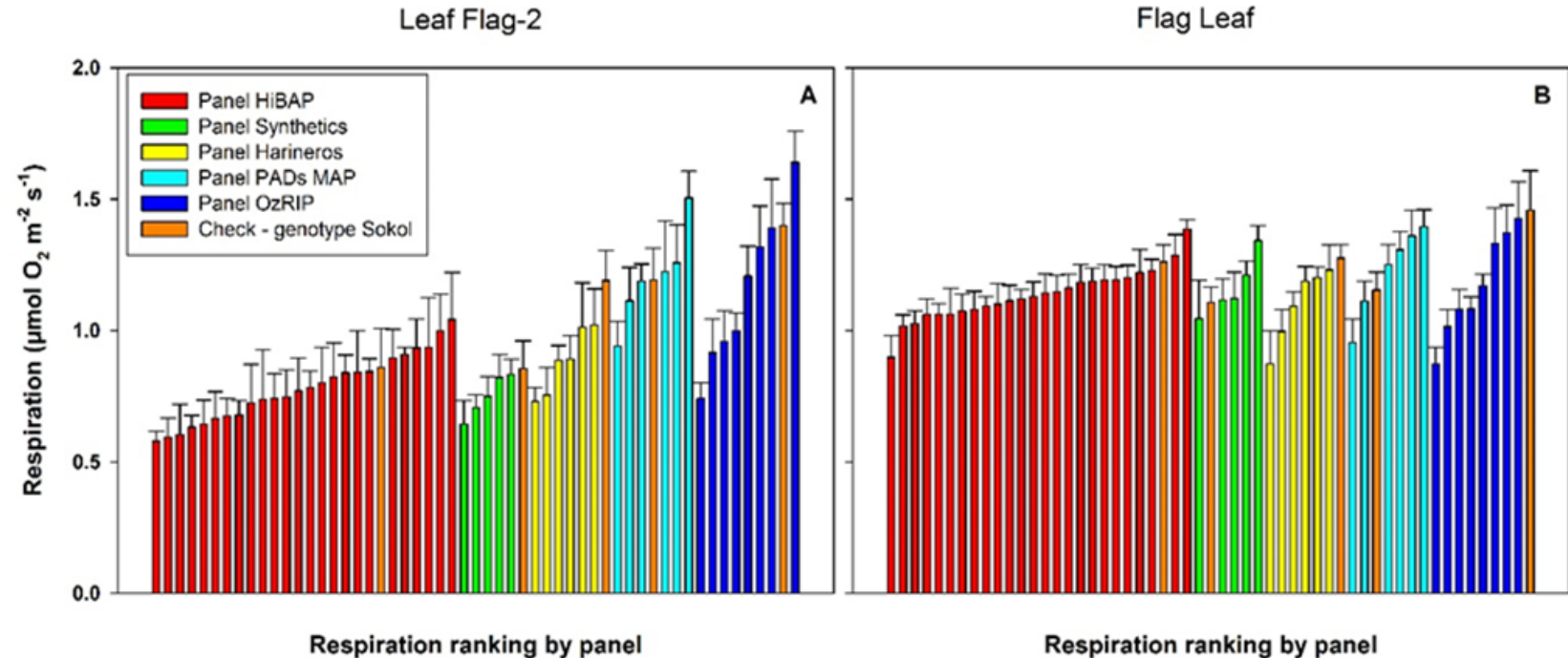
Table 1. Percentage change in grain yield and related traits of lines with an erect canopy compared with lines with a floppy canopy at the IWYP Hub 2017/18

	Grain yield	Biomass	Harvest Index	Grain No	Grain size	Spike No	Height	Flowering time
Erect vs. Floppy	12%	8%	4%	47%	-25%	22%	-5%	1%

Respiration and Energy Use Efficiency (EUE) Impacts Grain Yield in Wheat

Respiration Rate (R_d) is:

- **Diverse** - 2-3 fold variation found
- **Robust** - Panel rankings vary minimally between years
- **Informative** - R_d can be related to biomass and yield measurements
- Respiration is negatively correlated with yield
- Similar correlations with biomass can also be found



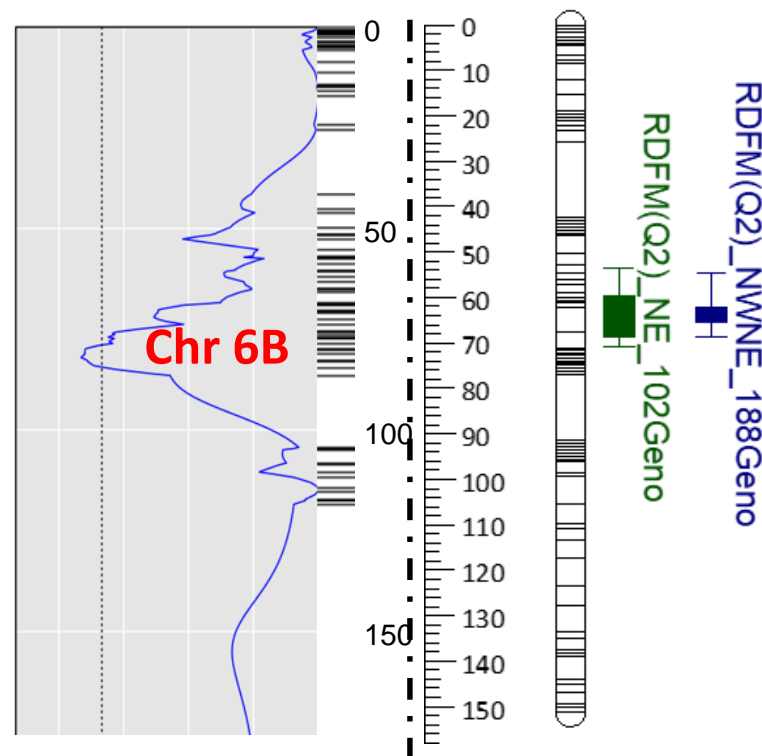
Parameter	2017		2016	
	<i>r</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>p</i>
Leaf R per unit leaf area ($\mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$)	-0.205	0.192	-0.109	0.650
Leaf R per unit dry mass ($\text{nmol O}_2 \text{ g}_{\text{DM}}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$)	-0.408	0.002	-0.382	0.041
Leaf R per unit fresh mass ($\text{nmol O}_2 \text{ g}_{\text{FM}}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$)	-0.306	0.032	0.170	0.449

Identification of QTL for Respiration Rate as a Marker for Selection to Increase EUE in Breeding

2 Mapping Populations

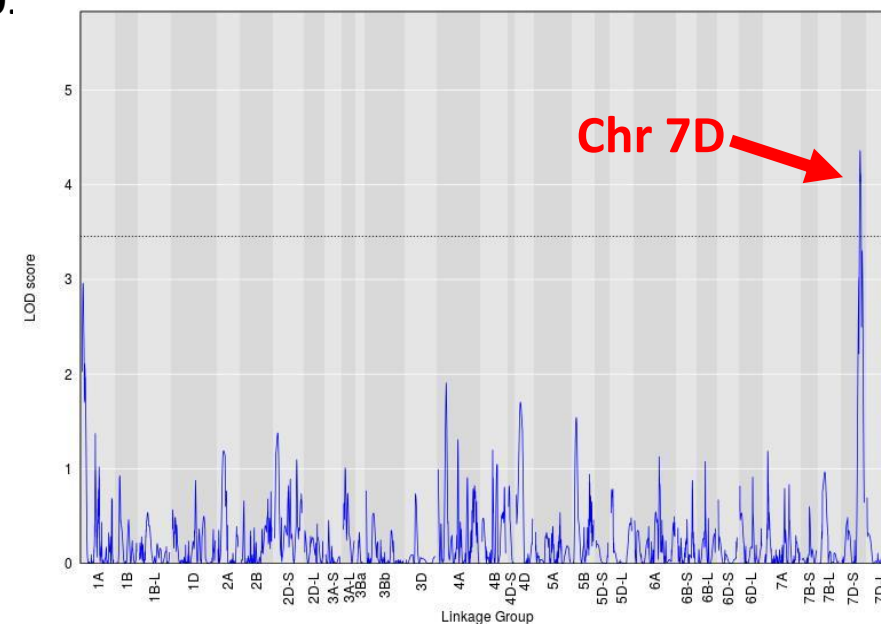
- Excalibur×Kukri (835 RILs)
- Seri – Babax (177 RILs)
- **Rd QTL on Chr 6B**
 - Both populations
 - No known phenology markers in area
 - New GBS map being generated for fine mapping

SBS – Obregon 2017 ExK – Adelaide 20:



Identification of QTL for *Rd* in two populations, LOD > 3.5, in two locations. Produced using rqt1 and QTL Cartographer.

SBS RIL QTLs, Anthesis, Vcmax25_Narea, OBR18, Field Phenotypes



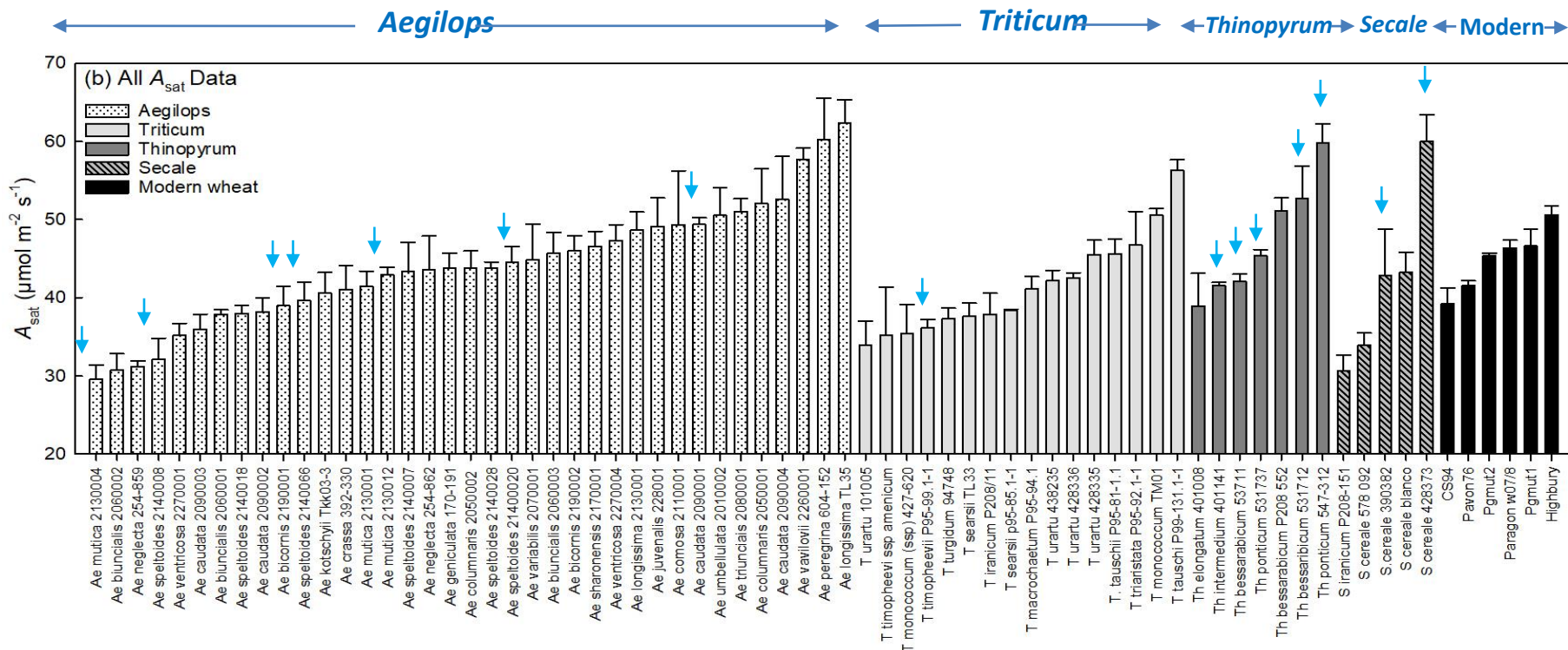
- **QTL 7D** for Vcmax/Narea in SBS RILs Obregon 2018 at anthesis
- Mapping in 2 sets of RILs >170 entries 2 sites, 3 seasons
- plus Excal / Kukri in Plant Accelerator

Mining Wild Relatives for Enhanced Photosynthetic Traits has Resulted in the Identification of Significant Positive Variation

138 wild relative accessions assessed

- A_{sat} , A_{max} , V_{cmax} and J_{max} , photorespiration
- Morphology
- Dynamic photoprotective traits
- ✓ Several-fold difference in photosynthesis
- ✓ Higher than elite lines

27 accessions of interest from 13 species that show enhanced photosynthesis associated with either: improved electron transport, Rubisco properties, dynamic photosynthesis, leaf morphology, dynamic stomatal responses. Strong theoretical basis.....



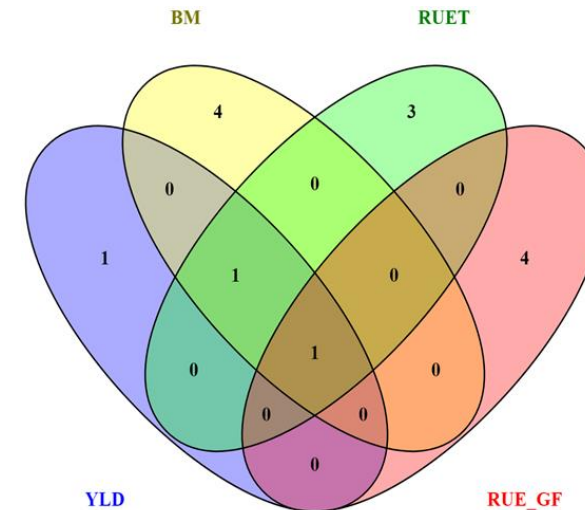
23 DH lines derived from *T. urartu* and *Ae. mutica* transferred to the IWYP Hub for field analysis in 2018+2019:

- 3 lines with consistently high photosynthesis (A_{sat} , V_{cmax} , J_{max}) and lower nocturnal dark respiration
- Biomass, yield component data & genetic analysis ongoing.
- Crossing with elite lines

Genotyping Selected Lines from Diverse Panels has Identified Many Important Marker-Trait Associations (Use for Breeding)

Trait	No. Marker Trait Associations	Chromosomes
Agronomic		
Grain Yield (g m^{-2})	3	5A, 6A, 7A
Plants m^{-2}	4	1A, 2B, 3B, 5A
Stems m^{-2} 40 days emergence	2	2B, 6B
Stems m^{-2} InB	4	1A, 2D, 3A, 6B
Phenology and phenological patterns		
Booting initiation (days)	5	2B, 3A, 3D, 5B, 6B
Days to anthesis	5	2B(2), 3A, 3D(2)
Rapid spike growth phase(%)	4	1A, 2B(2), 4D
% grain filling duration	4	3A(2), 3D, 5B
Sink		
Harvest Index	2	2B, 6A
Thousand grain weight	2	2D, 6D
Grains m^{-2}	5	2B, 3B, 5A, 6D, 7B
Spikes m^{-2}	9	1A(3), 2B, 3B, 5B, 6B(2), 7B
Grain weight per spike	4	1A, 1B, 2B, 6B
No. spikelets SP^{-1}	7	1A, 2B(2), 3D(2), 4B, 7A
Spike (cm)	3	5A, 5B, 7A
Source		
BM_40 days post emergence (g m^{-2})	2	1B, 3B
BM_Booting (g m^{-2})	3	2A, 4B, 7A
BM_Pysiological maturity (g m^{-2})	6	5A, 6A, 7A(2), 7B, 7D
RUE_E40InB (g MJ^{-1})	4	2A, 2D, 3B, 6A
RUE _{GF} (g MJ^{-1})	5	1A, 1D, 2A, 5A, 6A
RUE _r (g MJ^{-1})	5	3D, 5A(2), 6A, 7A
LI_E40 (%)	6	1B, 3B(3), 5A, 6D

Common MTAs between RUE with Yield and Biomass



Trait	Number of MTAs	Chromosomes
BM_E40 (g m^{-2})	2	1B, 3B
BM_InB (g m^{-2})	3	2A, 4B, 7A
BM_PM (g m^{-2})	6	5A, 6A, 7A(2), 7B, 7D
RUE_E40InB (g MJ^{-1})	4	2A, 2D, 3B, 6A
RUE_GF (g MJ^{-1})	5	1A, 1D, 2A, 5A, 6A
RUET (g MJ^{-1})	5	3D, 5A(2), 6A, 7A

Deployment of Beneficial Alleles (Sink) from Wheat CAP

The WheatCAP students are targeting:

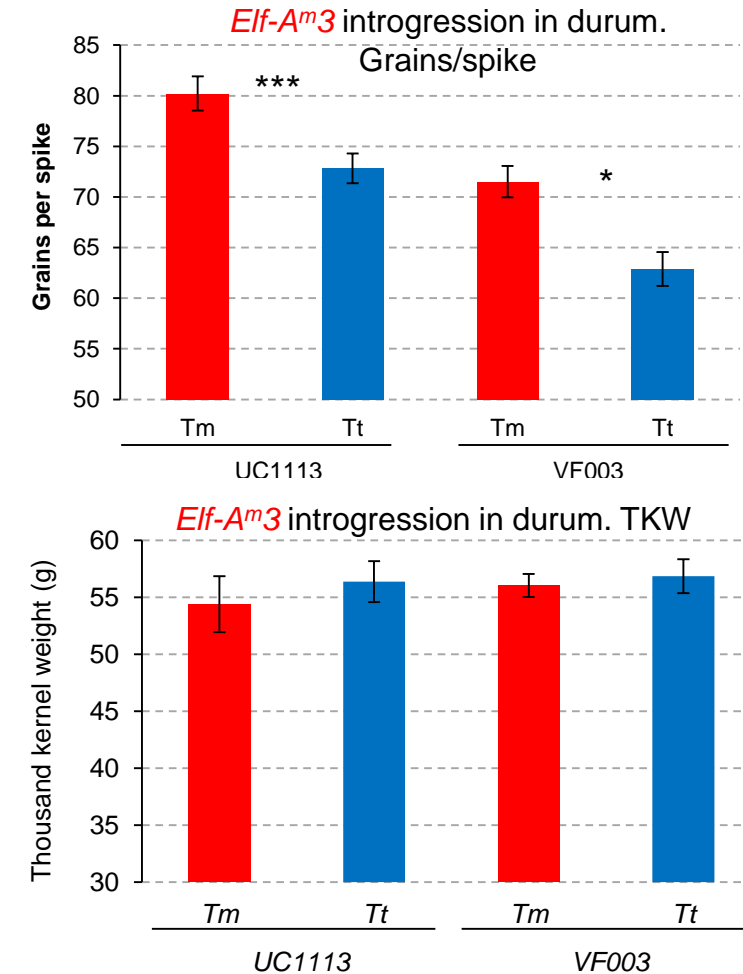
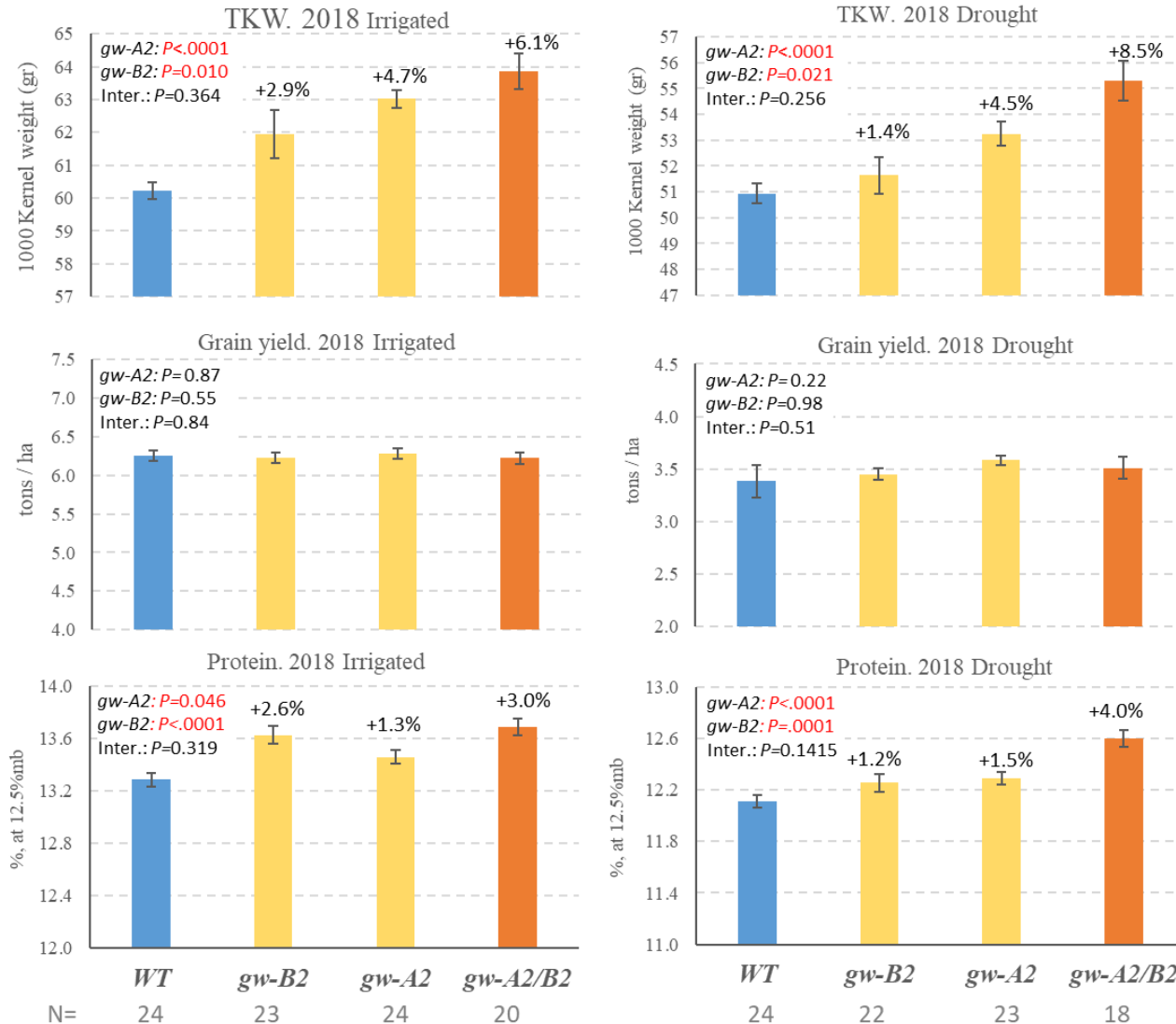
- 6 QTL for grain yield
- 5 QTL for SNS
- 8 QTL for kernel size/weight
- 2 QTL for reproductive tiller number
- Molecular markers are available for the QTL
- Students are provided exome capture data for their parental lines, genotyping of their mapping populations, and training to use the T3 database and tools
- Two projects have cloned their targeted genes, and others are at different stages.
- All programs are backcrossing their QTL into high yield (HY) and high biomass (HB) CIMMYT lines (will test isogenic lines vs. nulls)
- First lines delivered to the IWYP Hub at CIMMYT in 2017

Table 1. Traits, QTL, donor alleles, CIMMYT recurrent parents and status of crosses.

State	Trait	QTL/Gene	Donor allele	CIMMYT Background ¹	Status
AR	Yield	1A (IWA7173)	AGS 2000	4 HY CIMMYT lines	BC ₁
	Yield	6B (IWA755, IWA6428)	AGS 2000	9 HY CIMMYT lines	BC ₁
CA	Spikelet No.	7AL 670-680 Mb ²	Berkut	HB (GID 3855011, 4314513, 4878563)	BC ₄
	Spikelet No.	1A ^m L. <i>Elf3</i> = <i>Eps-A^m1</i>	<i>T. monococcum</i>	Kingbird / 5 HB CIMMYT	BC ₄ /BC ₂
	Grain Size	6AL <i>gw-A2</i>	EMS mutant	Kingbird / 5 HB CIMMYT	BC ₄ /BC ₂
	Combined	<i>Eps-A^m1</i> + <i>gw-A2</i>	Same as above	Cirno, Kronos, GID 6420253	BC ₄ F ₂
CO	Kernel weight	6BL 493-503 Mb	Platte	5 HB CIMMYT / CO13D1383	F ₁
	Spikelet No.	7AL 670-680 Mb	Platte	5 HB CIMMYT / CO13D1383	F ₁
ID	Spikelet No.	5AL 631-643 Mb	UI Platinum	4 HB CIMMYT	BC ₃
	Productive tillers	6A 91-198 Mb	Capstone	4 HB CIMMYT	BC ₃
KS	Yield & diseases	2DL QTL, <i>Sr57/Yr40</i> , 2NS	KS11WGGRC53-O	11 HY/HB	BC ₂
MI	Yield	2DS 22.1-29.5Mb	KS05HW14	Kingbird & Heilo	BC ₁ F ₁
MN	Grain size	5BS <i>QTKw.mna-5B</i>	MN99394-1	HB (3855011, ...13, ...63, ...69)	BC ₂ F ₂
MT	Productive tillers	6B <i>QTN.mst-6B</i> 150Mb	Reeder	HB (GID 3613474)	BC ₂
	Grain weight	6A	Massey	HY/HB	F ₁
NC	Awns	5A, <i>B1</i> awn suppressor	Multiple	HY/HB	F ₁
	Grain wgt./spike	2BL <i>QGws.fcu-2B</i>	Ben	Kingbird, GID4878569, 4577963, 3613474.	F ₁ /BC ₁
NY	Grain wgt./width	5AL (66 cM)	Opata	6 HY/ HB CIMMYT, Tom, Glenn	BC ₁₋₂
	Grain length	5BL1 (40.5 cM)	Synthetic W9784	6 HY/ HB CIMMYT, Tom, Glenn	BC ₁₋₂
OK	Yield	<i>QYld.osu-1B</i> (25 Mb reg.)	Duster	HY/ HB CIMMYT	F ₁
	Spikelet No.	7BL, 650-700 Mb	Citr17600 (L20)	HY/ HB CIMMYT	F ₁
SD	Yield	7DS, 6-16 Mb	<i>Ae. tauschii</i> TA1615	Kingbird, GID4314513, 3613474, Ideal	F ₁
TX	Grain weight	2BS, 65.5 Mb	TAM 111	4 HB CIMMYT	F ₁ /BC ₁
WA	Grain No/weight	4AL	Scarlett grain wgt.	HB CIMMYT ³	BC ₂

¹ CIMMYT recurrent parents for high biomass =HB and for high yield =HY.

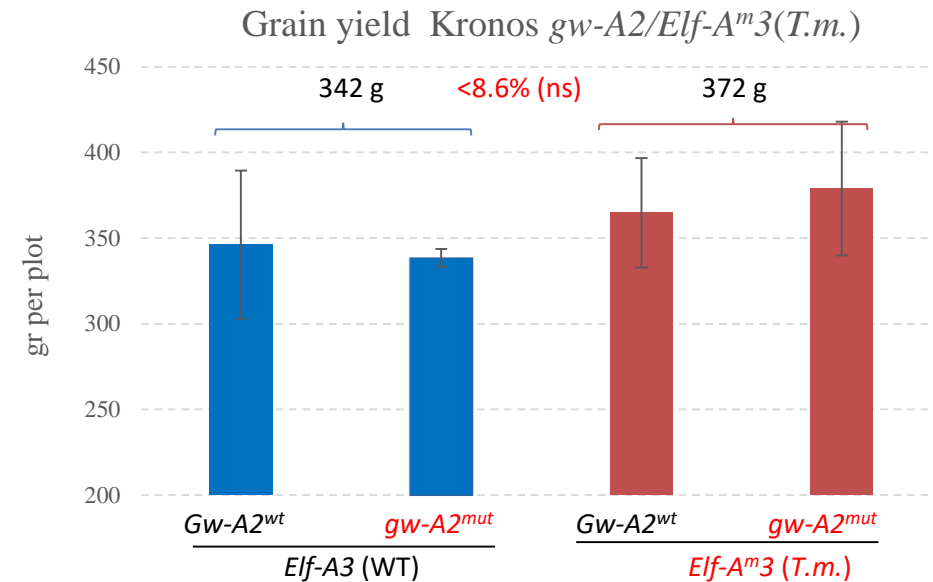
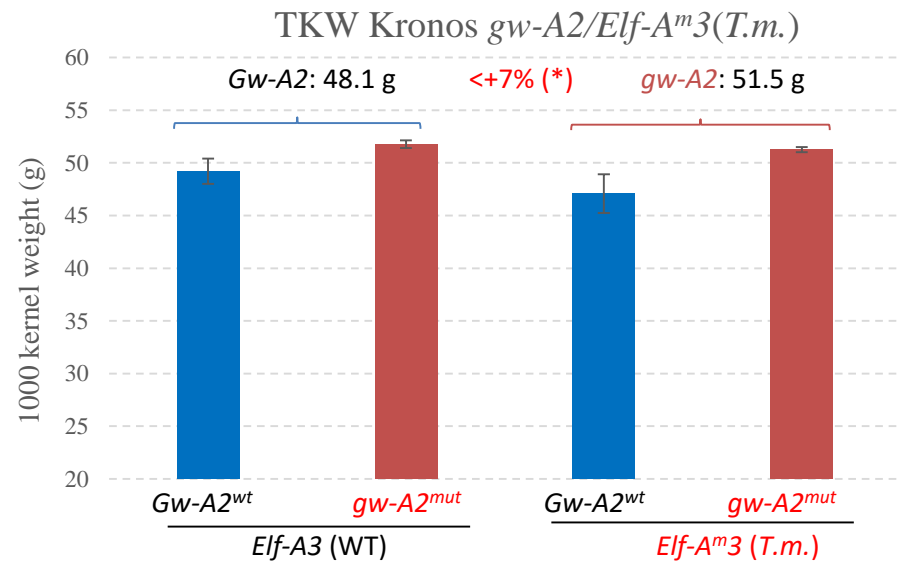
Increasing Yield Components to Realize Yield Gains Involves Strategies to Mitigate Trade-Offs



Courtesy of J. Dubcovsky, UC Davis

Combination of *Elf-A^m3* Allele for Grain Number and *gw2-A1* for Grain Size Shows Yield Increase in Preliminary Data

Effect of *gw-A2* and *Elf-A^m3* combined in Kronos (preliminary results)



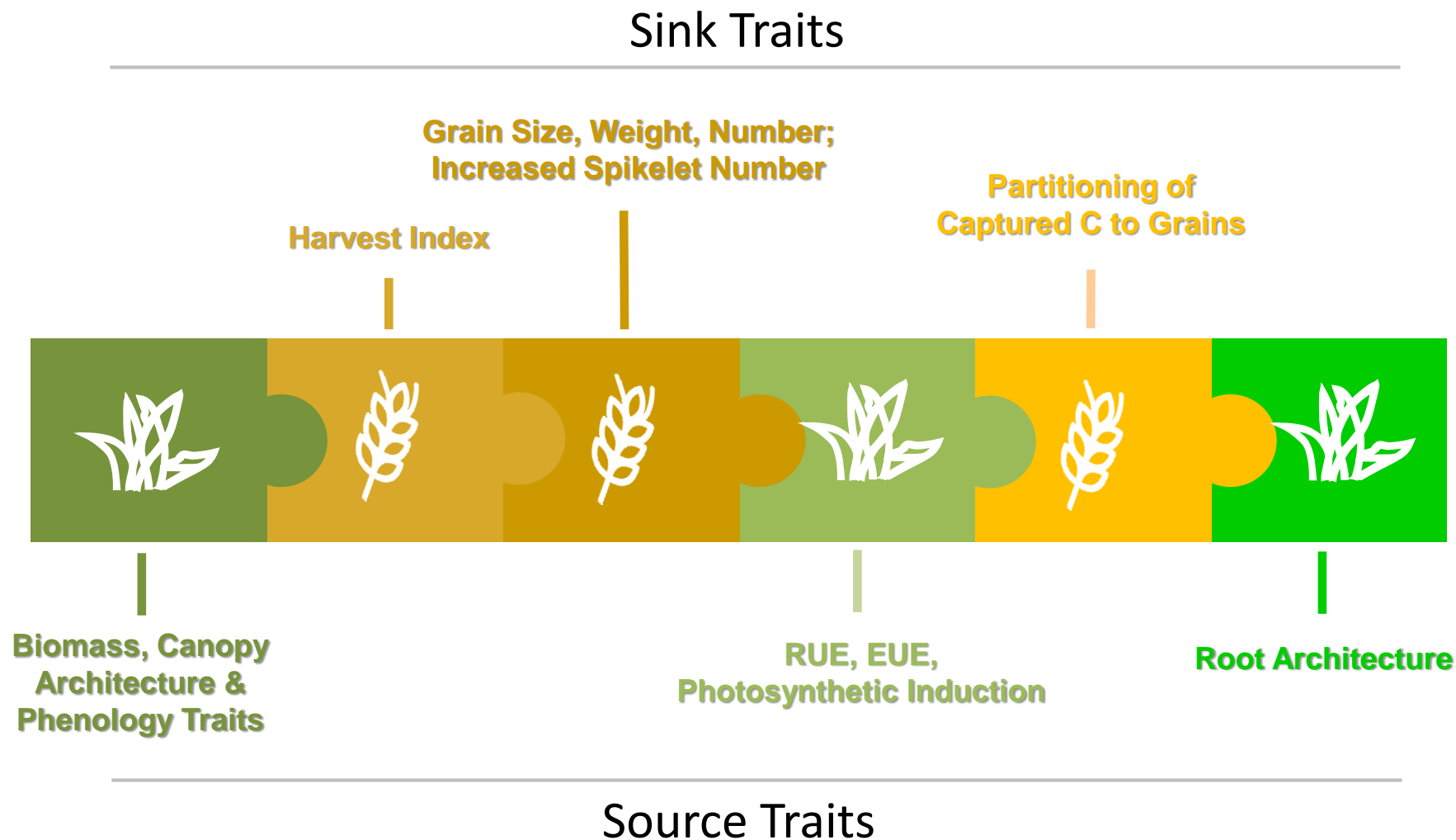
Tetraploid wheat

- Isogenic BC₄F₃ lines seeds in CIRNO and GID 6420253 were sent to the IWYP Hub at CIMMYT
- Yield trials with small plots at UCD (RCBD 6 blocks) and IWYP Hub at CIMMYT

Hexaploid wheat

- Isogenic BC₄F₃ lines seeds in Kingbird available 5/2019 (more seed in 11/2019)
- Isogenic BC₄F₃ lines seeds in High-Biomass lines available in 2020

IWYP's Strategy is to Combine/Stack Optimized Traits by Design to Build Higher Yielding Wheat Lines



Validation, Prebreeding and Delivery of New Higher Yielding Germplasm from the IWYP Hub at CIMMYT

- IWYP will create sets of elite wheat lines with **different trait stacks/packages** and deliver them into public and private breeding programs – this is the primary goal
- This has already begun at the IWYP Hub at CIMMYT with the first validated traits in spring wheat backgrounds
- The new IWYP lines are further tested and disseminated via the International Wheat Information Network (IWIN) with CIMMYT and to others directly on request (*see <https://iwyp.org>*)

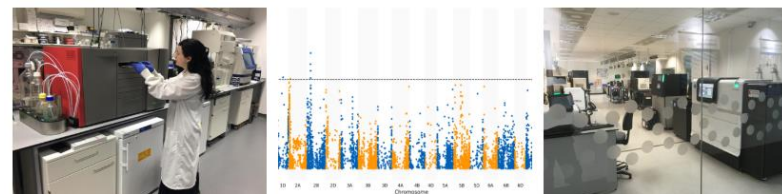
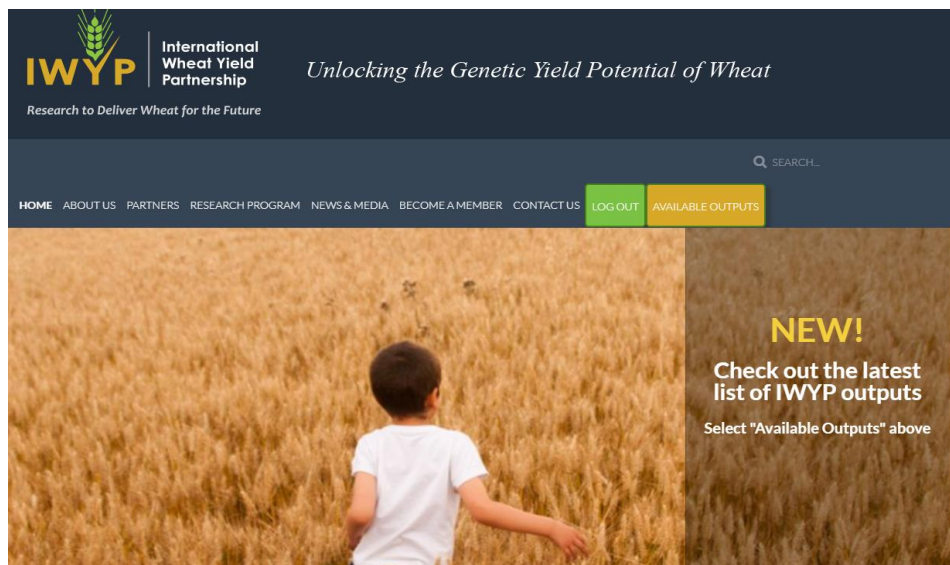
Lines Selected for High Biomass, HI, RUE Show Yield Increases in Multi-Location International Trials (4th WYCYT from CIMMYT IWIN System)

Environment Cluster	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	Combined
No of Environments	7	6	4	5	5	27
Yield in T/ha						
Best PT line	4.96	5.45	7.41	5.89	8.05	5.44
Best PT 3 rd WYCYT	4.71	5.23	7.13	4.67	7.51	5.23
% over best PT 3 rd WYCYT	5.31%	4.21%	3.93%	26.12%	7.19%	4.02%
Borlaug 100	5.29	4.46	5.45	5.65	7.28	5.09
% over Borlaug 100	-6.2%	22.3%	36.0%	4.2%	10.6%	6.9%
LSD	0.52	0.44	1.23	0.65	0.68	0.30

The IWYP Hub Develops Pre-Products but Some Have Been Adopted as Varieties

Year	Name	Cross / pedigree
2016	Borlaug-16	SOKOLL/3/PASTOR//HXL7573/2*BAU
2017	Kohat 17	SOKOLL/WEEBIL
2018	CASCABEL	Spot blotch resistant line (not released yet)

IWYP Outputs (Assets) Generated Are Available to Everyone



Show 10 entries

Trait Name	Trait Description	Marker Name(s)	Marker Discovery Platform	Marker Conversion Technology	Validated?	Potential / Known IP?	References	Contact
Vernalization	Vernalization (spring allele)	Vrn-B1b		KASP	Yes	None		simon.
Vernalization	Vernalization G:G Winter C:C Spring	Vrn-D1a		KASP	Yes	None		simon.
Vernalization	Vernalization C:C Jagger/Claire type short vrn T:T Veery, Wichita, 2147 type long vrn	Vrn-A1		KASP	Yes	None	CerealsDB	simon.
Vernalization	Vernalization A:A-vrn-A1/others winter G:G vrn-A1a spring	Vrn-A1a		KASP	Yes	None	CerealsDB	simon.
Grain weight	Thousand grain weight	GW2-A		KASP	Yes	None	Simmonds et al 2016	cristobal
Grain weight	Thousand grain weight	GW2-B		KASP	Yes	None	Wang et al 2018	cristobal
Grain weight	Thousand grain weight	GW2-D		KASP	Yes	None	Wang et al 2018	cristobal

Search:



Show 100 entries

Tool or Protocol	Type	Description	Potential / Known IP	Reference	Contact
Whole plant gas exchange system	Lab Phenotyping	Rapidly and accurately measures water use efficiency	None	Jauregui I, Rothwell SA, Taylor SH, Parry MAJ, Carmo-Silva E, Dodd IC (2018) Whole plant chamber to examine sensitivity of cereal gas exchange to changes in evaporative demand. Plant Methods 14:97.	i.dodd@lancaster.ac.uk
Wheat Training	Website	Wheat training website to help researchers interested in wheat navigate the different datasets and repositories available.	None	Wheat Training	cristobal.uauy@jc.ac.uk
Wheat Expression Browser	Expression analysis	Wheat Expression Browser with over 1,000 RNA-Seq datasets mapped to the RefSeqv1.1 gene models	None	Expression Browser	cristobal.uauy@jc.ac.uk
Wheat eFP	Expression	Visualisation of 210 RNA-	None	eFP Expression Browser	cristobal.uauy@jc.ac.uk

Search:

Asset Catalogues of 3 types:

- Germplasm (with traits)
- Trait Linked Markers
- Tools and Protocols

Learn More About IWYP and Join Us

- Go to the IWYP website
www.iwyp.org
- *IWYP Strategic Plan 2017-2022* (Full and Summary versions) published on the IWYP website
- *IWYP Annual Reports* published on the IWYP website::
 - 2015/16
 - 2016/17
 - 2017/18



Thank You



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